

1 **REMARKS**

2 The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and Allowance of Claims 1, 4, 5,
3 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, and 18 in view of the amendments presented above and the following
4 arguments.

5 **CLAIM OBJECTIONS**

6 Claims 1-17, 19, and 20 were objected to for informalities. These informalities have
7 been addressed by amendments to the claims as suggested by the Examiner. As a result,
8 Applicant submits that these informalities have been properly corrected and Applicant
9 respectfully requests that the objections to these claims on these grounds be withdrawn and
10 the remaining claims of this group be allowed.

11 **35 U.S.C. §112 REJECTIONS**

12 Claims 2, 3, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 for failing the enablement
13 requirement. Claims 2, 3, and 10 have been canceled.

14 **35 U.S.C. §102 REJECTIONS**

15 Claims 1-3, 5, 7-12, 14, 15, 17, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as
16 anticipated by Cannell U.S. Pat. No. 3,752,518.

17 Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14, and 15-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated
18 by Sweet U.S. Pat. No. 5,340,172.

19 **STATUS OF THE CLAIMS**

20 Claims 2, 3, 6, 10, 13, 16, 19, and 20 have been canceled.

21 Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, and 18 remain pending in this case.

22 Claims 6, 13, and 20 were identified as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

23 Applicant has added claim 6 to independent claim 1, added claim 13 to independent claim 9

1 and added claims 20 and 19 to independent claim 18. Likewise, Applicant has added claim 16
2 to independent claim 15.

3 **IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OFFICE ACTION, CLAIMS 1, 9, 15, 18 ARE NOT TAUGHT OR**
4 **SUGGESTED BY THE CITED ART**

5 The Examiner rejected independent Claims 1, 9, 15, 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as
6 anticipated by either U.S. Patent 3,752,518 to Cannell or U. S. Patent 5,340,172 to Sweet.
7 Nonetheless, the Examiner found that dependent claims 6, 13, and 20 would be allowable if
8 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any
9 intervening claims. Applicant has made the suggested amendments as set forth above and
10 respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 9 and 20 are allowable now in accordance with
11 the Examiner's office action. Further, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and
12 allowance of the claims depending from the allowable independent claims. That is, Applicant
13 also respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 4, 5, 7 and 8 depending from
14 independent claim 1; and claims 11, 12, and 14 depending from independent claim 9, in
15 accordance with the Examiner's conclusions as to allowability of claims 6, 13 and 20.

16 Still further, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of
17 independent claim 15 which has been amended to include the limitation of dependent claim 16.
18 The limitation of dependent claim 16 was the same as the limitation in claims 6, 13 and 20. As
19 a result, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 15 is also in condition for
20 allowance along with dependent claim 17.

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CONCLUSION

2 In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the remaining claims are
3 allowable as indicated by the Examiner and requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims
4 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, and 18. If the Examiner should feel that any issue remains
5 as to the allowability of these claims, or that a conference might expedite allowance of the
6 claims, the Examiner is asked to telephone the undersigned attorney.

7 Applicant intends this to be a complete response. No fee is believed due; however if a
8 fee is due, please charge the deposit account number indicated on the transmittal letter.

9
Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 8 FEB '05

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19 Certificate of Mailing

20 I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient
21 postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box
22 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

23 Date of Deposit: 8 FEB '05

24 Reg. No. 29,858, J. Nevin Shaffer, Jr.